

Addendum to  
Hampton Stable No. One  
535 Hampton Lane  
Northeast of Hampton Mansion  
Hampton National Historic Site  
Towson  
Baltimore County  
Maryland

HABS No. MD-226-B

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PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA  
REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey  
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation  
National Park Service  
Department of the Interior  
Washington, D. C. 20240

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

HABS No. MD-226-B

HAMPTON STABLE No. ONE

Location: 535 Hampton Lane, northeast of Hampton Mansion,  
Hampton National Historic Site, Towson,  
Baltimore County, Maryland

Present Owner: U. S. Department of the Interior, National Park  
Service

Present Use: Tack and carriage museum

Statement of  
Significance: This structure is an excellent example of an  
early stable which is used for the interpretation  
of the Hampton estate.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: The tract of land on which Stable No. One was built had been acquired in 1745 by Colonel Charles Ridgely from Clement and Ann Hill. The 1500 acre tract, "Northampton," had been inherited by Ann Hill from her father, Henry Darnall, who had patented it in 1695. Captain Charles Ridgely, Colonel Ridgely's son, inherited the property in 1772 after his father's death. Captain Ridgely for whom Hampton Mansion was built died in 1790. In accordance with his will, nephew Charles Ridgely Carnan assumed title to much of the estate and Ridgely name. On January 17, 1791, widow Rebecca Ridgely signed an agreement with Charles Carnan Ridgely to exchange a tract of land and house for her rights, claims and interest to Hampton. The estate was inherited by Charles Carnan Ridgely's second son, John, in 1829, as his first son, Charles, had died in 1819. After John's death in 1867, the estate was inherited by his son, Charles, who bequeathed it to his son, John, in 1872. The estate was left to John Ridgely, Jr. in 1938, who sold the mansion to the Avalon Foundation in 1946. The foundation subsequently transferred it in 1948 to the National Park Service under the condition that the Society for the Preservation of Maryland Antiquities would maintain the estate after it was restored by the Park Service. Ridgely sold the 2.118 acre site of Stables No. One and Two to the National Park Service in May 1953.

2. Date of erection: Circa 1800
  3. Architect: Unknown
  4. Construction information: In the Ridgely account books of 1796 and 1808 it is recorded that William Tudor sent a bill for building a Race Horse Stable in 1805. This may be the existing stable or possibly the one listed under Rebecca Ridgely's name in the 1798 Tax List along with a carriage house. No stables were listed under Charles Carnan Ridgely's name.
  5. Alterations and additions: The stable was remodeled circa 1850. A cupola was added and four north and south doorways were closed with masonry when five original interior box stalls and a tack room were rearranged for thirteen stalls and a tack room. Early in November of 1963 the National Park Service, with the supervision of Warren Dugan, commenced the restoration of the stable, which was completed in the summer of 1964. Involved were extensive masonry work, the installation of new window and door frames, shutters and doors, and the removal of the 1853 stall partitions. A soil-cement floor replaces the original earth floor. All the original exterior stucco was removed.
  6. Important old views: The 1843 plat of the Hampton estate indicates Stable No. One. The 1936 HABS photograph of the stables shows both buildings prior to the removal of architectural detail in 1937.
- B. Historic Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: By his will dated April 7, 1786, Captain Ridgely, who died in 1790, wrote,
- "I give and bequeath unto my beloved wife Rebecca Ridgely during her natural life the dwelling house wherein I now reside together with Eight Acres of Land thereto Adjoining for a Garden with as many of the outhouses as she may think necessary for her Convenience or if she should prefer the new House I am now building I leave it at her option to Choose the same and I do also direct that Charles Ridgely Carnan my nephew and his heirs do and shall provide for my said dear wife a stable sufficient to contain Six horses and same keep in constant Repair, etc."

The final version of his will provided Rebecca with 1,000 pounds per annum from the date of his death, the "New Stone Dwelling House lately constructed," 300 acres of adjoining

land, firewood, and timber for rails. On July 29, 1790, Charles Carnan, the principal devisee and residuary legatee of the will, sent Rebecca a signed settlement paper offering her the mansion and 300 acres which specifically excluded "the Old Dwelling House in which her said husband heretofore lived, and the Stables and Outhouses thereunto belonging." Carnan agreed to build her a stable large enough to hold six horses, and a carriage house. Rebecca, who did not sign the agreement, finally settled with Charles Carnan on January 17, 1791, and exchanged Hampton for 224 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres of land, "Dimmitt's Delight," a house and eight acres of land, "Auburn," and the promise that Charles Carnan would build her a stable and carriage house. Charles Carnan never complied as he had agreed and she finally persuaded him to settle for cash in 1805.

Charles Carnan Ridgely had a substantial interest in horses and his account books specifically mention the horses Bonaparte, Oscar, Roxilina, Chatham, Post Boy, Old Peg, Lightning, Spot and Quaker. When Ridgely died in 1829 eighteen horses and the equipment of the Race Horse Stable loft were sold at auction.

According to the diaries of Helen Stewart Ridgely (1854-1929), John Gleen built a race course at Hampton in 1831, which was followed by a paddock facilitating trotting and sulky racing. The diaries also indicate that the Carriage Horse Stable, the Race Horse Stable and the Carriage House were in close proximity.

Presently Stable No. One houses a magnificently restored Ridgely family coach and a phaeton as well as tack displays and a derelict coach.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: The Ridgely family papers are indexed by Avril J. M. Pedley in The Manuscript Collections of the Maryland Historical Society, Baltimore, 1968. Contained are eight collection numbers which list eighty-seven volumes and approximately thirty-five boxes of loose material.

Within the National Park Service, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation, Division of History files there are several typescript reports including: Lionel J. Bienvenu's "Historic Structures Report, Stable No. 1," 1962; and Norman M. Souder's "Historic Structures Report, Part I on Rehabilitation of Stable No. 1 and 2," 1963, "Historic Structures

Report, Part II, Architectural Data Section on Rehabilitation of Stable No. 1," 1963, and "Historic Structures Report, Part III, Architectural Data Section on Stables No. 1 and 2," 1965. The last report contains restoration photographs and drawings.

2. Secondary and published sources: Some information on the stables is available in Charles E. Peterson's Notes on Hampton Mansion, published by the U.S. Department of the Interior, National Park Service in 1970.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The stable is a two-story, rubble stone masonry structure with a pyramidal roof and cupola. The three-bay east facade has a second floor loft door over the central entrance door. Second floor louvered openings flank the west loft door of the full, three-bay west elevation. The five-bay first floor elevation, like the south elevation which has second floor louvered openings, has had the exterior doorways closed with masonry construction similar to the walling.
2. Condition of the fabric: After the restoration work of 1963-64, the condition of the fabric is excellent.

### B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure measures 35'-4" x 42'-5".
2. Foundations: The structure is built on rubble stone foundations.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The uncoursed rubble stone masonry walls are approximately 1'-8" thick at the first floor, 1'-6" thick at the second floor, and extend approximately 17'-0" above the first floor level. Originally the walls had pinkish terra cotta colored stucco similar to Hampton Mansion. All the stucco, which was deteriorated and spalling, was removed in 1963-64.
4. Structural system: In conjunction with the masonry bearing walls, the second floor joists are suspended from two wood trusses in the roof structure and are held in place by six 1½" cast iron tension rods.

5. Porches: None

6. Chimneys: None

7. Openings:

a. Doorways and doors: The east and west entrance and loft doorways have beaded, mortised and tenoned and pegged, solid-stock frames with ovolo backband trim which were restored to match the original frames. Ohio Bluestone sills patterned after original fragments were set at the first floor doorways and wood sills were installed at the loft doorways. Board and batten doors were reconstructed and hung in the doorways, replacing earlier temporary enclosures and board doors. The restoration doors are constructed from random width, tongue and groove pine boards applied to beveled battens with clinched imitation wrought iron nails. Dutch-type doors are indicated in the 1936 HABS photograph.

b. Windows and shutters: The restored first floor windows have mortised and tenoned solid-stock frames with beaded inner edges and ovolo backband trim. Four 1" square vertical wrought bars are set diagonally into the frames. Inswinging board and batten shutters are at the north and south windows. Each shutter leaf, patterned after original shutters found in Stable No. Two, is constructed from two vertical, beaded boards nailed to beveled battens with rose-headed, clinched nails. The east and west windows have four light casement sash restored to the openings. The heads of the original casement frames were found in place. Interior ghosts in the plaster indicated that the east windows had wide trim, possibly protective frames.

The second floor windows have fixed slat louvers set into beaded mortised and tenoned frames with ovolo backband trim.

Continuous lintels are set at the interior over the windows and the closed north and south doorways, which do not have any exterior arch construction in the masonry.

8. Roof:

a. Shape and covering: The pyramidal roof with its mortise and tenon framing is covered with cedar shingles on some original roof sheathing.

- b. Cornice and eaves: The stable has a boxed cornice with a cyma recta crown moulding and a cyma reversa bed moulding.
- c. Cupola: The cupola, with two arched, louvered panels with imposts at each elevation, has a pyramidal roof above a box cornice with crown and bed mouldings. A simple wood finial is set at the apex. The cupola structure is nailed to the roof structure and is not original.

C. Description of Interior:

- 1. Floor plans: Both floors are single space areas. At the first floor the area originally had five box stalls and a corner tack room which was remodeled circa 1850 into thirteen stalls combined with the tack room along an east-west axis. The entire interior was removed in 1964 due to termite damage.
- 2. Stairways: An original ship ladder extended from the loft area through the hoistway. It was restored and the guides were replaced as the ship ladder was designed to rise into the hatch opening when not in use. The original counterbalancing system was unknown and was not restored.
- 3. Flooring: The southwest corner tack room had a wood floor which was removed and the existing dirt floor originally 10" below the tack room floor was covered with a soil-cement mixture to imitate the earth floor. Indentations in the original earth floor at 3'-0" on center suggest that the floor may have had wood sleepers and wood flooring at one time. The second floor has wide, random width wood flooring over original 5" x 9" joists and 3" x 9" joist replacements.
- 4. Wall and ceiling finish: The interior of the first floor, plastered over sawn lath at interior wood window lintels, was originally unplastered. The walls were plastered to the top of the stall wainscoting circa 1850. During the restoration the plaster was patched to the floor. The unaltered second floor has unplastered walls. At the first floor the ceiling has beaded, 3" to 5" random width pine boarding. The second floor ceiling has exposed roof structure.
- 5. Doorways and trim: The frames of the exterior openings are plain, without beading or trim. The hoist way, with second floor hay shutes extending into the apex of the roof structure, is trimmed with beaded boarding.

6. Special decorative features, trim and cabinet work: The circa 1850 stalls and feed troughs on either side of the central aisle were constructed from narrow beaded boarding. End posts were six inches in diameter and had six inch ball finials.
  7. Hardware: Several original wrought iron strap hinges were found on early shutters and were copied with modern sheet metal hinges. Restoration strap hinges are at the doorways. All the window frames have exterior shutter hinge pintles in situ.
  8. Mechanical equipment: The stable is unheated, though an electrical system was installed in 1964 to light the exhibits.
- D. Site and Surroundings: The stable is located to the south of Stable No. Two, both of which are on the west side of "Stable Lane" which extends between Hampton Mansion and the Overseer's House. There is no landscaping.

### PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project was initially financed with funds from the "Mission 66" Program of the National Park Service under the direction of Charles E. Peterson, Supervising Architect, Historic Structures. Hampton Mansion was measured in 1958 by Student Assistant Architects Orville W. Carroll (University of Oregon), Harold A. Nelson (University of Michigan), and Trevor Nelson (M.I.T.), with Professor Lee H. Nelson (University of Illinois) as Project Supervisor. The complex was measured and drawn in 1959 by Student Assistant Architects Charles C. Boldrick (University of Notre Dame), Richard C. Mehring (University of Virginia) and Herbert L. Banks (University of Florida), with Professor F. Blair Reeves (University of Florida) as Project Supervisor.

The project was edited in 1972-73 by Rodd L. Wheaton, Architect, Historic American Buildings Survey, who prepared the historical data, edited and expanded the 1959 architectural data and recorded several structures which were previously unrecorded.